

DISTRICT OFFICES
167 MYERS CORNERS ROAD
WAPPINGERS FALLS, NEW YORK 12590
(845) 298-5000 x 40145
FAX (845) 298-5041

Marco Pochintesta, Superintendent of Schools



RECEIVED

MAR 26 2013

TO: Town of Wappinger Supervisor -- Barbara Gutzler
✓ Town of Fishkill Supervisor -- Bob LaColla
Town of East Fishkill Supervisor -- John Hickman

FISHKILL TOWN
SUPERVISOR

FROM: Marco Pochintesta *Marco Pochintesta*
Superintendent of Schools

DATE: March 22, 2013

RE: WCSD Budget Survey

In an effort to solicit feedback from the Wappingers Central School District community, we have put together a budget survey that is available on our website -- www.wappingersschools.org.

I am aware, however, that there are some community members that do not have access to the computer. In these cases I ask that you afford them the opportunity to participate in this survey by making available the attached paper copies or by asking them to stop by our district offices at 167 Myers Corners Road, Wappingers Falls.

If you could also post the attached flyer on your bulletin board, it may help to alert the community to this undertaking.

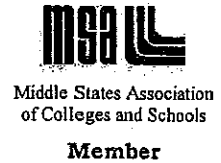
If anyone has questions, they can call my office at 298-5000, ext. 40145 or email me at marco.pochintesta@wappingersschools.org.

Thank you.



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PLEASE PARTICIPATE
IN THE
WAPPINGERS CENTRAL SCHOOL
DISTRICT BUDGET SURVEY

TO PARTICIPATE GO TO DISTRICT
WEBSITE AT:
WWW.WAPPINGERSSCHOOLS.ORG

OR

FOR A PAPER COPY VISIT YOUR
TOWN HALL OR THE DISTRICT
OFFICES (167 MYERS CORNERS
ROAD) OR YOUR COMMUNITY
LIBRARY

Wappingers CSD Budget Survey

The Wappingers CSD is currently working on expanding our ability to gather information from the public through the use of surveys. We are particularly interested at this time of year in learning the public's perspective on the prospective 2013-14 school budget.

Maintaining a strong educational program is our goal and focus. However, a reduction in federal aid through Federal sequestration, the 2% Tax Cap, an increase in unfunded mandates from the New York State Education Department and an uncertainty in the level of financial support from New York State are all factors that pose a significant challenge when building our school budget.

The current Superintendent's Recommended Budget contains all of the programs and services that are described in the survey below. The budget's considerable growth from 2012-2013 to 2013-2014 is largely due to expenses that are beyond the control of the school district. If we are going to restrict the growth of the budget to stay within the property tax cap it is likely that some of these non-mandated programs and services will need to be reduced or discontinued. According to the Tax Cap Legislation, communities that wish to override the property tax cap may do so. However, this requires a supermajority or a minimum of 60 percent of the vote.

Your input will be incredibly valuable to us as we continue to plan our budget. We ask that you please take a few moments to provide your feedback on the following programs and services. We ask that you answer these based on how important each program or service is to your school, family and community.

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Wappingers CSD Budget Survey

WCSD Survey Part 1

Please rate the following 10 items on a scale of 1 - 5

- 1 = "No opinion"
2 = "Not important enough to preserve in a time of fiscal constraint"
3 = "Good to have but not essential for our district"
4 = "Very important to our mission and worth preserving"
5 = "Essential and critical to the school district's mission"

Full Day Kindergarten:

This program provides our youngest students with expanded learning opportunities in both the social and academic skills. The curriculum of the full day Kindergarten provides a common core learning standards based program that gives students the skills that are needed to become life long learners.

1 2 3 4 5

No opinion ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Essential and Critical

Maintaining Up to Date Technology in the Classroom:

College and Career readiness is a NYSED initiative which includes a strong emphasis on technology integration and online testing. By investing in new technology we will be able to keep up with the prescribed NYSED guidelines.

1 2 3 4 5

No opinion ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Essential and Critical

Clubs at the Secondary Level:

Extra-curricular clubs and activities for students at the secondary level are an important part of student life. Students that have a higher rate of participation in positive student life experiences at school typically have a lower rate of disciplinary referrals. This in turn supports higher academic achievement and a good school climate. Participation in clubs and activities is viewed favorably by colleges and universities.

1 2 3 4 5

No opinion ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Essential and Critical

Building Security (Technology Improvements):

Improving building security and communication with first responders with technology such as cameras, door buzzers, panic buttons, and a visitor management system.

1 2 3 4 5

No opinion ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Essential and Critical

JV and Varsity Athletics:

These programs provide student athletes with many and varied opportunities to develop athletic skills and sportsmanship while engaging in complex team sports. The district's sports programs also provide an avenue for student athletes to gain recognition for their athletic abilities in the form of scholarships to colleges and universities across the country.

1 2 3 4 5

No opinion ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Essential and Critical

Modified Athletics:

This program provides an opportunity for junior high school students to be involved in sports. It involves basic team concepts, playing styles and fundamental strategies that are important to strengthening athletic skills. It also helps to create sound physical fitness through regular planned activities.

1 2 3 4 5

No opinion ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Essential and Critical

Orchard View Alternative High School:

Orchard View Alternative High School is an important part of our District's initiative to increase graduation rates and decrease the rate of "dropouts". Some of our students respond best to an alternative setting and its differentiated approach.

1 2 3 4 5

No opinion ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Essential and Critical

Advanced Placement Courses:

AP Courses provide our students with academic challenges and opportunities to gain a greater depth of knowledge in certain subjects. Colleges and universities will often recognize students who have taken on the rigor of AP coursework through admission and college credits.

1 2 3 4 5

No opinion ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Essential and Critical

Band, Orchestra, General Music and Art at the Elementary Level:

Over 2,400 students are actively enrolled in performance ensembles in grades 4-6. Art and music in the elementary schools provide students with creative thinking and problem solving skills which allow them the freedom to think and organize their creativity.

1 2 3 4 5

No opinion ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Essential and Critical

Secondary Electives

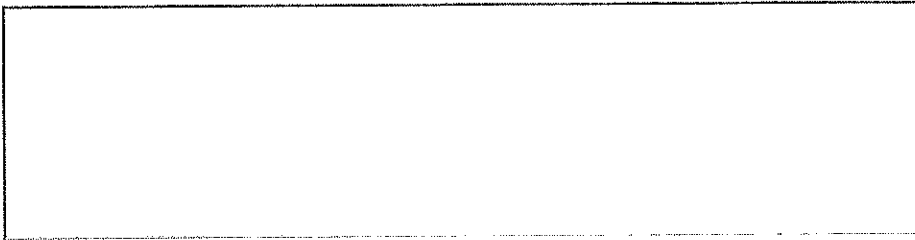
Electives allow students to explore their career interests which supports the standard for college and career readiness. Secondary electives are also a key element to transcript and resume development for college admissions.

1 2 3 4 5

No opinion ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ Essential and Critical

If you have any additional comments or concerns you wish to share about any of the above items please use the

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Wappingers CSD Budget Survey

* Required

WCSD Survey Part 2

The NYS tax cap legislation will remain in place for the 2013-2014 budget. How would you best describe your understanding of the cap and its impact to the schools?

For further information about the WCSD Budget and the tax cap legislation click on the following link:

<http://www.wappingersschools.org/Page/10411>

- ☐ Fully understand the cap and its impacts
- ☐ I know about it and know it's going to require that choices to be made
- ☐ I heard something about it but I don't know specifics
- ☐ I have never heard of it
- ☐ I do not know
- ☐ Other:

Under the State's property tax cap legislation, school districts have the option of exceeding the cap if they receive at least 60% voter approval from the community for the budget. Please select the following item which best represents your opinion about how the district should approach the tax cap.

- ☐ Maintain staff and programs, even if it requires overriding the tax cap.
- ☐ Stay within the tax cap and cut teachers/staff and programs.
- ☐ Go below the tax cap with substantial cuts to teachers/staff and programs.
- ☐ Stay within the tax cap this year, but seek to override it in future years.

Please tell us a little bit about yourself. Are you a: *

- ☐ Parent/guardian of a current Wappingers CSD student
- ☐ Parent/guardian of a current private/parochial school student
- ☐ District Resident without a child in the Wappingers CSD
- ☐ Non-District Resident
- ☐ K-12 Student

If you are a parent or student in the District, please indicate the grade level(s) you or your child(ren) attend. Please check all that apply.

- ☐ Elementary School
- ☐ Junior High School
- ☐ High School
- ☐ Other:

What motivates you most to participate in a school district budget vote?

- ☐ I am most motivated by taxes being raised or lowered

- ☐ I am most motivated by programs added, reduced or eliminated
- ☐ I am most motivated by the Board of Education candidates seeking election
- ☐ I am most motivated by my desire to exercise the right to vote
- ☐ I am most motivated by the desire to maintain a high quality school system.
- ☐ Other:

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